

Minorities for Equality in Employment, Education, Liberty, and Justice MEEELJ, Inc.

Mission:

To effect change and opportunity for formally incarcerated persons, inmates, and disadvantaged youth.

Vision:

To eliminate the barriers this population faces in being successful, employable, educated, and empowered member of society.

At this time, MEEELJ, Inc. serves at risk youth and formally incarcerated persons in Bastrop and Caldwell Counties, Del Valle, and portions of Eastern Travis County.

MEEELJ, Inc.

Minorities for Equality in Employment, Education, Liberty and Justice, Inc. (MEEELJ) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization in operation for seven years, solely founded to aid the families and those persons who have previously been incarcerated. MEEELJ, Inc. has been able to serve over 600 adults and juveniles in Bastrop and Travis County who meet this criterion.

MEEELJ, Inc.

- State approved alcohol awareness classes for minors
- Anger management groups
- Assign/locate legal counsel for participants

MEEELJ, Inc.

- Job readiness training
- Adult basic education, GED proficiency preparation
- assist in securing stable housing for participants

Iron Sharpens Iron

- In May 2011 MEEELJ enter into a contract with the City of Austin to implement a pilot program, Iron Sharpens Iron (ISI).
- The pilot's purpose is to empower individuals so that they may fully realize their inherent and unlimited potential - in spite of a felony - to make a difference in their lives and in the Austin community

Iron Sharpens Iron

- This pilot program provides up to 36 clients per year a 16 week peer-to-peer counseling and training session designed to successfully remove the barriers that restrict services for individuals who have criminal backgrounds.
- For various reasons, ISI clients were unable to benefit from the community infrastructure designed to prepare the general population for the journey through life.

Iron Sharpens Iron

- The ISI system was specifically designed by MEEELJ to address the challenging conditions the City of Austin presents individuals with criminal histories trying to get reestablished within the general community.
- The training starts with an in-depth self-assessment, which is used to develop the client's individualized 16-week training plan.

Iron Sharpens Iron

- The ISI system provides each client with a weekly stipend as a financial incentive to participate in the program, to complete the 16 week training plan, and as a recruiting tool.
- The stipend helps eliminates the largest barrier preventing participation of any potential client. The payment of the stipend depends on the weekly completion of the individualized 16-week training plan by both client and peer partner.

Iron Sharpens Iron

- The training provided is sufficient to start each client down a path that leads to earning a legitimate living.
- In addition, each client's training will equip them to train one or their friends or family members who may or may not have a criminal background.